

## REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 17, 2030. Claims 1-12, 14-36 and 38-46 remain in this application, of which Claims 1, 10, 15, 18, 19, 24, 34, 39, 41, and 42 are in independent form. Claims 1-12, 14-26, 28-36 and 38-46 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Claims 13 and 37 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and those two claims will not be mentioned further. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8-12, 14, 15, 17-26, 28, 29, 31-36, 38, 39 and 41-46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,034,995 (Eisele et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,554,413 (Pinede et al.), and Claims 4, 7, 13, 16, 30 and 40, as being unpatentable over *Eisele* in view of *Pinede*, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,608,546 (Nakamura et al.).

The aspects of the present invention to which the present independent claims are respectively directed, relate to a facsimile apparatus which is connected to telephone lines different from each another to be connectable with respectively different facsimile apparatuses at the same time, and to a method of using such an apparatus. In such a facsimile apparatus, the same type of facsimile communication with facsimile apparatuses different from each can be conducted via respectively different communication lines.

Further, the claimed facsimile apparatus and method can be used to conduct individual facsimile communication utilizing each of the telephone lines, thereby to reduce power use. For example, when one telephone line is not employed, facsimile communication is conducted via the other telephone line as a control unit is retained on standby, whereby the overall facsimile apparatus power consumption can be reduced.

For example, independent Claim 1 is directed to a facsimile apparatus adapted to accommodate a plurality of telephone lines connectable with respective different remote partners at a same time, and comprising a first and a second facsimile communication unit respectively connectable with a first and a second telephone line, the first unit being adapted to reduce power dissipation on standby, and adapted to communicate with a remote partner via the first telephone line, while the second facsimile communication unit is adapted to reduce power dissipation on standby, and adapted to communicate with a remote partner via the second telephone line. Also provided are a power supply unit adapted to supply power to the first and second facsimile communication units, and a detection unit adapted to detect actuation factors for the first and second facsimile communication units. A controller, when the first and second facsimile communication units are on standby, controls the power supply unit to supply power to the second facsimile communication unit but not to the first facsimile communication unit, in order to retain the first facsimile communication unit as it is on standby, in response to detection of an actuation factor for the second facsimile communication unit by the detection unit. In addition, according to Claim 1, each of the first and second facsimile communication units can execute communication for image data, independently, and while one of these facsimile communication units is executing the communication, the other facsimile communication unit can be retained on standby, thereby reducing power dissipation.

In contrast, *Eisele* relates to a binary data transmission system in which plural stations are connected to each another via a differential bus comprising two common lines and binary data or a pair of logical value data are transmitted among the plural stations via the two common lines. However, in the *Eisele* system, individual data transmission cannot be conducted using each of the two common lines. Further, if there occurs a trouble on one of the two

common lines, the logical value data cannot be transmitted. Accordingly, Applicant urges strongly that nothing in *Eisele* would teach or suggest a facsimile communication apparatus having such first and second facsimile communication units, much less having the recited controller that controls such first and second facsimile communication units.

Each of the other independent claims herein contains recitations similar to those discussed above in connection with Claim 1, and is deemed allowable over *Eisele* for substantially the same reasons as is Claim 1.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other rejected claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

This Amendment After Final Action is believed clearly to place this application in condition for allowance and, therefore, its entry is believed proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment, as an earnest effort to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact Applicant's undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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